

BART is Your Ride to Holiday Fun

Visions of traffic jams and parking hassles dancing in your head? Say "humbug!" to all that and take BART to holiday events. Plan your trip online at www.bart.gov or pick up a "Fares and Schedules" brochure at any BART station.

The Mouse King and the Snow Queen warm hearts with another "Nutcracker" season at the San Francisco Ballet, Dec. 17-31 at War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness at Grove, San Francisco BART: Civic Center. Tickets and information: www.sfballet.org.



Ebenezer Scrooge learns to love humanity and the Christmas spirit yet again in the classic "A Christmas Carol" in both San Francisco and Walnut Creek. The American Conservatory Theatre version runs through Dec. 24 at the Geary

Theatre, 415 Geary St., San Francisco. BART: Montgomery, 4-block walk. Tickets and info: www.act-sf.org or 415/749-2ACT.

Center REPeritory Company of Walnut Creek presents "A Christmas Carol" Dec. 9-19 at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive. BART: Walnut Creek. Tickets and info: www.dlrca.org or 925/943-7469.

Holiday dance goes beyond "Nutcracker" with an inventive combination of ballet, tap, swing, jazz and pop in Smuin Ballet's "The Christmas Ballet." Performances run Dec. 15-26 at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St., San Francisco. BART: Powell or Montgomery. Tickets and info: 415/978-2787 or www.smuinballet.org.

Of course BART gets you to the glittering retail giants too (Union Square and the San Francisco Centre are just steps away from Powell Street Station). But for a special shopping experience that puts the "art" into BART, ride the train to crafts festivals and tours.



The granddaddy of crafts festivals, the KPFA Crafts & Music Fair, happens Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11-12, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Concourse, Eighth and Brannan streets, San Francisco. BART: Civic Center, free shuttle. Info: www.kpfa.org or 510/848-6767.

Check out the "Good Times" Calendar on the back page for more great venues and events all accessible by BART! Don't drive yourself crazy doing holiday shopping – BART gets you around even better than eight tiny reindeer.

Improve your Holidays... Take BART to the Airport

Make BART a part of your holiday travel plans. Reliable, less expensive and faster than driving, take BART to SFO or Oakland International. For more information on BART airport service visit www.bart.gov.



Ring in the New Year with a BART Flash Pass

The best way to celebrate New Year's Eve is by leaving your car at home and using BART's "New Year's Eve Flash Pass," good for unlimited rides on BART throughout the holiday evening.

The special "New Year's Eve Flash Pass" costs just \$6 and gets you unlimited rides on BART from 6 p.m., Friday, December 31 to 3 a.m. Saturday, January 1.

Customers with passes simply flash them to the BART Station Agent and pass through the station entrance swing gate. No need to use the fare gates!



Passes go on sale December 15. Get your BART New Year's Eve Flash Pass at Safeway stores in the greater Bay Area, Alameda County Longs Drug Stores, the BART

Customer Services Center at the Lake Merritt BART station, Transit Stores in the Embarcadero, Civic Center, Montgomery, Powell Street and Bay

Fair stations and through select "Tickets To Go" vendors. Visit www.bart.gov for a detailed listing of all locations selling the flash pass.

Save Time and Money with BART's Long-Term Parking

This holiday season, take advantage of BART's Long-term parking when you fly out of SFO or Oakland International airports.

Long-term parking for airport passengers



is available at all East Bay BART parking lots, except West Oakland. Reserve a BART Long-term airport parking space before you fly and park for only \$5.00 a day.

Purchasing a Long-term permit is easy. Visit www.bart.gov/parking, click Long-term parking and follow the simple instructions. You can also call the parking vendor at 877/700-PARK for assistance with your permit purchase.



Question of the Month

Something that sounds like a giant hawk has been squawking at the El Cerrito Plaza station. What is it?

The sound you're hearing is BART's latest attempt to deter pigeons from roosting above the platforms and leaving their droppings below. Speakers have been installed to broadcast the sounds of pigeon predators to keep the messy birds away.

The new method has been a success so far: bird droppings in the area have nearly been eliminated.



In the past, BART has tried other means of pigeon control, including: netting, spikes, plastic owls and rubber snakes to keep the pesky birds away.

The new system has the ability to broadcast different predator sounds. As one set of predators lose their potency, different sounds can be alternated for more effective control.

Give the Gift of Warmth This Winter

Ever wonder what to do with that spare coat in your closet? This year BART and the San Francisco Examiner are teaming up to give you the chance to donate an extra coat to help the less fortunate in our community as part of the "One Warm Coat" program.



You can drop off your donated coats Tuesday, December 14 from 7-9 a.m. at BART's Ashby and Embarcadero stations and Tuesday, December 21 from 7-9 a.m. at Hayward and Oakland City Center/12th Street stations.

One Warm Coat is a non-profit organization that has donated more than 150,000 coats since its founding in 1992. For more information, visit www.onewarmcoat.org.

GOOD TIMES

Dovetailing Art and Life: The Bennett Collection

San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design
550 Sutter Street, San Francisco
www.sfmcd.org or 415/773-0303
BART: Powell, 5-block walk

Through Jan. 31: New museum's inaugural collection features the lifelong collection of art, craft and design from studio furniture maker Garry Knox Bennett and his wife, Sylvia. As an introduction to the public, admission is free through the end of 2004.

Kristi Yamaguchi Embarcadero Center Ice Rink

Justin Herman Plaza, Embarcadero Center
San Francisco, 415/956-2688
www.embarcaderocenter.com
BART: Embarcadero

Through January: It's a rare experience for Bay Area residents – a real outdoor ice rink. Skate with a happy, diverse crowd under the sparkling holiday lights of the Embarcadero Center soaring above.



Casting Pebble, Flying Kite

Oakland Museum of California Off-Site
Gallery 555, 555 12th Street at Clay, Oakland
www.museumca.org/satellite/hsu_pan.html
BART: 12th Street

Through Jan. 5: The exhibition features the large-scale sculpture of Oakland artists Joyce Hsu and Chen-Ju Pan. Both artists' work, while aesthetically different, examines cultural confusion created by globalization and technology.



Our Town

SF Playhouse, 536 Sutter Street, San Francisco
www.ticketweb.com or 415/677-9596
www.goldstarevents.com/events/event/2619.html
BART: Powell, 5-block walk

Through Dec. 18: Thornton Wilder's 1938 American classic illustrates the past, present and future of the residents of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, through the events of a single day, May 7, 1901.

College Football Comes to SBC Park

Take BART to SBC Park in San Francisco for a pair of exciting college football bowl games. The Emerald Bowl kicks off December 30 and the East West Shrine game takes place January 15.

Take BART to Embarcadero or Montgomery Stations and walk to SBC Park, or transfer to Muni Metro. Take the Muni Metro N line directly to the ballpark. The Second and King station is right next to the park.

The University of New Mexico and the Naval Academy play in the 3rd Annual Emerald Bowl December 30 at 1:30 p.m. at SBC Park. The Lobos, who finished the regular season with a 7-4 record, take on the Midshipmen who beat arch-rival Army to finish at 9-1.



Tickets for the third annual Emerald Bowl are on sale now at 925/762-2277, online at www.tickets.com or www.emeraldbowl.org and at all Giants Dugout stores.

The East West Shrine Game is the most prestigious college all-star game in the country and has been played in San Francisco since 1925. This year the game will be played for the 80th time and features three Cal Bears (Geoff McArthur, J.J. Arrington and Lorenzo Alexander).

The Shrine Game will be played on January 15 at SBC Park with kickoff at 11:00 a.m. Tickets are available at all Giants Dugout stores, tickets.com and the East West Shrine Game website at www.shrinegame.com.

BARToon

grimescartoons.com

